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NEWS RELEASE

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Statewide Unemployment Rate Down, Payroll Jobs Up in April

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate fell -0.1 percentage point to 4.6 percent, while nonfarm payrolls increased by +9,300 in April, based on preliminary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and released by IDES. The March monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report, from +18,300 to +17,200 jobs. The March unemployment rate was unchanged from the preliminary report, remaining at 4.7 percent. The April payroll jobs estimate and unemployment rate reflects activity for the week including the 12th.

In April, the industry sectors with the largest over-the-month gains in employment were: Leisure and Hospitality (+7,300), Manufacturing (+5,700), and Educational and Health Services (+3,500). The industry sectors that reported the largest monthly payroll declines were: Professional and Business (-11,100), Financial Activities (-2,200), and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-1,700).

“Illinois’ economy is continuing on a strong positive trajectory,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “Through collaboration with local partners, employers, and job seekers, we are strengthening our workforce system for the long run. Businesses and workers are encouraged to visit [Get Hired Illinois](#) to view helpful resources today.”

“Not only does the unemployment rate continue to decline in Illinois, but a growing percentage of Illinoisans are participating in the workforce,” said **DCEO Director Sylvia I. Garcia**. “As job numbers in key industries such as manufacturing and hospitality continue to increase, DCEO continues to focus on an equitable recovery with workforce development programs like the Job Training and Economic Development program, announced this week, that focuses on increasing access for underserved and underrepresented communities to good paying careers.”

The state’s unemployment rate was +1.0 percentage points higher than the national unemployment rate reported for April, which was 3.6 percent, unchanged from the previous month. The Illinois unemployment rate was down -2.0 percentage points from a year ago when it was at 6.6 percent.

Compared to a year ago, nonfarm payroll employment increased by +235,800 jobs, with gains across nearly all major industries. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases were: Leisure and Hospitality (+84,300), Professional and Business Services (+46,300), and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+45,700). The Mining sector reported no over-the-year change in payroll employment. In April, total nonfarm payrolls were up +4.1 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +4.6 percent in the nation.

The number of unemployed workers was down from the prior month, a -0.9 percent decrease to 296,400 and was down -29.2 percent over the same month one year ago. The labor force was up +0.3 percent over-the-month and up +2.3 percent over-the-year. The unemployment rate identifies those individuals who are out of work and seeking employment. An individual who exhausts or is ineligible for benefits is still reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work.

In May 2020, Governor Pritzker launched [Get Hired Illinois](#), a new one-stop-shop website to help connect job seekers with hiring employers in real time. The site features virtual job fairs, no-cost virtual training, and includes [IllinoisJobLink.com](#) (IJL), the state’s largest job search engine, which recently showed 44,422 posted resumes with 175,677 available jobs.

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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	Apr-22	Mar-22	Apr-21	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	4.6%	4.7%	6.6%	4.7%	-0.1	-2.0
U.S.	3.6%	3.6%	6.0%	3.7%	0.0	-2.4

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Apr-22 Current *	Mar-22 Prior month**	Apr-21 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,002,600	5,993,300	5,766,800	9,300	235,800	5,990,700	17,200
IL - Mining	6,600	6,600	6,600	0	0	6,600	0
IL - Construction	224,700	222,000	223,000	2,700	1,700	222,500	900
IL - Manufacturing	572,100	566,400	553,500	5,700	18,600	567,900	3,500
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,218,300	1,220,000	1,172,600	-1,700	45,700	1,220,500	2,300
IL - Information	92,400	92,500	87,200	-100	5,200	92,100	800
IL - Financial Activities	407,600	409,800	406,300	-2,200	1,300	407,800	100
IL - Professional and Business Services	964,300	975,400	918,000	-11,100	46,300	968,100	600
IL - Educational and Health Services	913,400	909,900	907,100	3,500	6,300	910,600	3,200
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	563,800	556,500	479,500	7,300	84,300	557,700	5,500
IL - Other Services	246,600	244,800	237,300	1,800	9,300	245,500	500
IL - Government	792,800	789,400	775,700	3,400	17,100	791,300	0

* Preliminary
**Final

- Monthly 2017-2021 seasonally adjusted labor force data for Illinois, and all other states, have been revised as required by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The monthly historical revisions to state labor force estimates reflect new national benchmark controls, state working-age population controls, outlier specifications, seasonal factors, as well as updated total nonfarm jobs and unemployment benefits claims inputs. Illinois labor force data were also smoothed to eliminate large monthly changes as a result of volatility in the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS) and national benchmarking. For these reasons, the comments and tables citing unemployment rates in previous news releases/materials may no longer be valid.
- Monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for Illinois and the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan Division are available [here](#).
- Monthly 2017-2021 seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment data for Illinois have been revised. To control for potential survey error, the estimates are benchmarked annually to universal counts derived primarily from unemployment insurance tax reports.
- Not seasonally adjusted jobs data with industry detail are available [here](#). “Other Services” include activities in three broad categories: personal and laundry; repair and maintenance; and religious, grant making, civic and professional organizations. Seasonally adjusted data for subsectors within industries are not available.

About the Department of Employment Security

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) provides vital employment services to Illinois workers, employers, and job seekers with resources including [Job Fairs](#) and [IllinoisJobLink.com](#), analyzes and disseminates actionable [Labor Market Information](#), and administers the [Unemployment Insurance Program](#). To see the full range of services provided by IDES, and for the latest news concerning the department, visit [IDES.Illinois.gov](#).